

ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM**TECHNICAL FIELD**

This invention relates to administration and in particular the administration of sporting and recreational events.

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BACKGROUND ART

The administration of sporting fixtures and events, in terms of organisation and reporting to governing bodies can be quite onerous and time consuming.

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If, for example, a sporting venue hosts ten team games per day twenty teams are involved and administrators and officials of the day are required to record and report all events, particularly in relation to individual participants, incidents which are claimed to be undesirable, e.g. undue parental interference or attitudes, a large amount of work is involved.

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Most organised competitions also require that a record be kept of the statistics of each player in order to determine player eligibility for finals games and details of scorers and the like. This creates an additional administrative burden of requiring that a record of this be kept usually in the form of "sign-on" sheets. In the example above, twenty teams are involved on

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one day at one ground. The problems of having each player sign on every game creates a problem for officials and also creates a large amount of administrative inefficiency as the administrator must later compile a list of players and the number of games and other statistics played during a season manually.

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To date, the administration and reporting of such events is largely a manual process.

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Most sporting codes have strict rules relating to the eligibility of players for particular team grades and it is important that administrators are not duped into allowing players to participate in events for which they do not qualify. A secure means of identifying the bona fides of players is essential for this purpose.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an

administration system for sporting and recreational events which addresses the aforesaid issues and provides the public with a useful choice.

Further objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the ensuing description which is given by way of example.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to an aspect of the invention, an administration system is provided.

The present invention is intended to assist the administrators in the following areas: reduced paperwork and administration time associated with player and game statistics; enhanced security in order to restrict inappropriate player substitutions; enhanced communication between players, parents and administrators; provide a promotional vehicle to aid sponsors and assist in the promotion of an individual Association.

The system may preferably be used by an upper-level association having subsidiary members. The members may be other associations or individual member clubs consisting of one or more teams and/or individuals.

To achieve these goals the present invention uses three main components:

- (i) Data collection,
- (ii) A data storage and collation facility,
- (iii) Data distribution.

All three components are able to interact with each other and combine to provide a tool that is able to collect information on game day and distribute up-to-date information into the homes of all players and officials while saving administrative time in the process.

The data collection process may comprise in itself two major components. The first is a photographic identification (ID) card which is distributed to all players and officials at the start of each season.

The card provides photographic ID and lists a player's club and team as well as other significant information required by each association.

The cards may also feature advertising space for sponsors as well as sponsorship discounts that the card holder can use throughout the year.

Each card identifies the card holder and which is used to identify the card holder and for the collection of information quickly and easily as the bar code allows a large amount of information to be accessed easily.

The second component is a hand held palm and data processing unit. This unit enables the administration officials to collect player lists from each game as well as enter game statistics that may include game scores, point scorers, medical/injury information, start/finish times, umpire reports etc. After collection the data can be sent by email to a central collection facility.

The data collection may be performed in multiple different formats. For example, a list of payers taking part in a given game may be compiled quickly and easily by using the checklist in the hand held unit. Prior to a game commencing, all related data is uploaded from the main data storage and information relating to each of the players accessed or viewed on the data processing unit virtually instantaneously.

The data storage facility may suitably be a database that is controlled and maintained by the association's main administrative staff. The database is used to retain all information that is collected from players, officials, clubs, teams, games and other contacts which the member associations may use. The database can produce reports (that include pictures) for each club, team or school in the association. Complete history of player performance can be accessed from the database. Player registration, emergency contacts, schools, email register, club contact information, news items can all be stored within the database. The database is also the central point that will collect the information sent from each ground as part of the data collection process.

The information stored in the database may be accessed and/or

updated either remotely or through a fixed central access point. The fixed central access point may require the various hand held scanner and data processing units used in the system to be returned to the access point for downloading or the like.

5 The data distribution system utilises the benefits of the internet and the World Wide Web. From within their own homes, players, officials and the general public can login to the secure website and find out the latest game scores, view the draw, view current ladders, view pictures of club and team mates, find out latest news items. Everyone who receives an ID card
10 also has log in access to the website and can view areas such as "My Team", "My Club". The website also provides public access where interested parties can access basic information about the association, clubs, age groups, where games are being played this weekend.

 The system may be designed with a variety of access levels
15 available to users to provide information to players, team managers and officials, club or association administrators and governing sporting bodies. The information may be tailored to suit the desires of the various user groups or to suit the type of information that the system provider desires to release.

 The system maybe adapted to provide at least one, some or all
20 of the following capabilities:

- Comprehensive guide to the services, facilities, competitions, history, clubs and teams within a sporting competition as well as contact information for all clubs,
- Access to competition fixtures, results, venues and points
25 ladders,
- Links to club websites as well as links to National sites,
- Access to rules and by-laws of the particular game, and
- News and events notification.
- Access to game reports with breakdown of results, scorers, etc,
- 30 ○ Access to personal details such as address and contact information,
- Personal statistics

- o Team Images
- o Club news and events
- o Reduced paperwork and increased convenience.
- o Access to team members contact details
- 5 o Access to team members statistics
- o Access to administration forms etc
- o Access to a variety of team administration reports
- o Reduced match day paperwork.
- o Access to all of the club members contact details and statistics
- 10 o Ability to add club news and events and/or electronic newsletter
- o Sponsorship opportunities on club pages
- o Data distribution saves time and cost of physical reproduction
- o Automatic collation of statistics
- o Increased efficiency including access at all times via the internet
- 15 and reduction in paperwork and physical record keeping.
- o Real time collection of data including compilation, analysis and review
- o Opportunity cost with regard to useful time
- o Compilation of player histories
- 20 o More convenient and useful access to information
- o Simplified distribution of data including reducing level of manual data distribution
- o A variety of styles and filters provides access to a variety of reports, and
- 25 o System adapted to suit the requirements of individual associations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Aspects of the present invention will now be described in relation to the accompanying drawings in which

30 Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of the interrelated elements of the system.

Figure 2 is a schematic site map for the related world wide

computer network (or Web) site according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

With respect to the Figure 1, data collected can be on-forwarded to a data storage facility forwarded to a data distribution facility, in
5 turn communicable to the data collection facility.

From the point of view of commercialising the system, a number of alternative user packages may be offered, for example:

A STANDARD PACKAGE, to include

10 Data collection/storage and administration software
Customised web site
Digital Camera.

A STANDARD PLUS PACKAGE, to include

15 Data collection/storage and administration software
Customised web site
Digital Camera
Player ID cards

A DELUXE PACKAGE, to include

20 Data collection/storage and administration software
Customised web site
Digital Camera
On ground data collection facility

A DELUXE PLUS PACKAGE, to include

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Customised web site
Digital Camera
Player ID cards
On ground data collection facility.

30 The system has been designed as a complete administration package. The system provider benefits participants at all levels throughout the various associations. The system is designed with a variety of access levels that provide information to players, team managers and officials, club

or association administrators and governing sporting bodies.

A brief outline of some of the benefits provided by the system to the various user groups is:

* Public

- 5
 - o Comprehensive guide to the services, facilities, competitions, history, clubs and teams within a sporting competition as well as contact information for all clubs,
 - o Access to competition fixtures, results, venues and points ladders,
- 10
 - o Links to club websites as well as links to National sites,
 - o Access to rules and by-laws of the particular game, and
 - o News and events notification.

* Players

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 - o All of the above plus
 - o Access to game reports with breakdown of results, scorers, etc,
 - o Access to personal details such as address and contact information,
 - o Personal statistics
 - o Team Images
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 - o Club news and events

* Game and Team Officials

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 - o All of the above plus,
 - o Access to team members contact details
 - o Access to team members statistics
 - o Access to administration forms etc
 - o Access to a variety of team administration reports
 - o Reduced match day paperwork.

* Club Administrators

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 - o All of the above plus
 - o Access to all of the club members contact details and statistics
 - o Ability to add club news and events and/or electronic newsletter
 - o Sponsorship opportunities on club pages

- Data distribution saves time and cost of physical reproduction
 - Automatic collation of statistics
 - Increased efficiency including access at all times via the internet and reduction in paperwork and physical record keeping.
- 5 * Competition Administrators
- All of the above plus
 - Real time collection of data including compilation, analysis and review
 - Opportunity cost with regard to useful time
 - 10 ○ Compilation of player histories
 - More convenient and useful access to information
 - Simplified distribution of data including reducing level of manual data distribution
 - A variety of styles and filters provides access to a variety of reports, and
 - 15 ○ System adapted to suit the requirements of individual associations.

Aspects of the present invention have been described by way of example only and modifications and additions thereto may be made without
20 departing from the spirit or scope thereof.